

Investing in our beaches and neighborhoods

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By Kevin Faulconer



Crown Point Pavilion Project Groundbreaking in Pacific Beach

A lot of effort at City Hall recently has been geared toward opposing Sacramento's plan to disband redevelopment agencies across California. Most of San Diego's beach communities are not eligible to receive redevelopment dollars, but that hasn't kept us from working together to improve our neighborhoods.

All of us owe a big thank you to the community leaders and groups who helped us get to where we are today, including the Pacific Beach Town Council and Planning Group, Discover Pacific Beach, Mission Beach Town Council and Planning Group, Point Loma Association, Peninsula Community Planning Board, Ocean Beach Planning Board, Town Council and Main Street Association.

I have no doubt that with your help we will continue to protect San Diego's beaches and bays.

Those beaches and bays, and our neighborhoods, are jewels. They attract millions of people – locals and tourists – every year who come to surf, sun, swim, bike, walk, jog, barbeque, read and otherwise forget about life for a while.

Some of our recent accomplishments include:

- Opening NTC Park in Point Loma – at 46 acres, NTC Park is the largest waterfront park built in San Diego since Mission Bay Park
- Repaving South Mission Boulevard
- Overhauling pump stations in Pacific and Mission beaches
- Leading the campaign for the Mission Bay Park ordinance, which keeps revenue generated in Mission Bay in Mission Bay
- Replacing the cracked and rusted storm drains on the bay in La Playa
- Undergrounding unsightly power lines in Point Loma's Roseville neighborhood
- Investing in the new Peninsula Family YMCA gymnasium – which celebrated its grand opening April 9
- Installing stop signs and crosswalks in Pacific Beach to enhance pedestrian safety
- Repaving and replacing about 20 miles of streets, sewer lines and water pipes in Ocean Beach and Point Loma during the last two years
- Replacing more than eight miles of 75-year-old sewer pipes in Pacific Beach, and repaving miles of streets in Pacific Beach and Mission Beach
- Replacing restrooms at Palisades Park
- Replacing rotting picnic pavilion on Crown Point in Mission Bay Park
- Making our beaches cleaner, safer and more family friendly by removing alcohol
- Banning Floatopia events on Mission Bay
- Saving the City's firepits from budget cuts (I'm currently working on this again)

Numerous projects are underway, including the Ocean Beach Gateway – a decorative plaza that will give pedestrians access to the adjacent Robb Field Community Park. I want to thank the Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation for its hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

On Friday, April 29 we're breaking ground on the new Rose Creek pedestrian bridge at Mission Bay Park.

Plans for a new lifeguard station in north Pacific Beach have been finalized, and we have secured money for design.

In Point Loma and Ocean Beach, the city is in the process of completing 13 water and sewer replacement projects.

The City also is replacing lights at Pacific Beach Tennis Club – the only public tennis courts in the beach area. I committed to fixing the lights in 2010 but the discretionary funding source at City Hall was recently eliminated, so I allocated \$25,000 from my office budget.

We secured new lighting for Garnet Avenue – 68 new lights are being replaced.

We fought to keep the undergrounding of unsightly utility lines in South Mission Beach on schedule after learning the City wanted to move the project to the last on the list – year 2065.

We also helped persuade the City to repair the seawall and boardwalk from south Mission Beach to north Pacific Beach. Work is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day.

I care deeply about the beach areas, and I routinely visit the bays, the beaches, the boardwalk and other places with my family.

What's most important to me, however, is you. I want to hear from you. What's working? What isn't? Where do we need to turn our attention?

Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, Mission Bay Park – these are our neighborhoods and it's up to us to keep them looking their best.

Many thanks for your ideas, hard work and support.

San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer represents District 2, which stretches from Downtown to Mt. Soledad.